

The China Mail.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, 8th MARCH, 1866.

DEATHS.

At the Civil Hospital, Hongkong, on the 8th of March, Haver PEARCE, a seaman, unemployed.

At the Seamen's Hospital, Hongkong, on the 8th of March, R. STANTON, seaman, unemployed.

ECHOES OF THE WEEK.

Our political summary of Chinese affairs this week is but a meagre one. Nothing of importance has come to hand respecting the ports most threatened, viz Hankow and Swatow. The little news there is respecting Tai-ping dom is good, but the announcement of the extinction of the rebellion in one province of the Empire does not lead one to hope that the reports from other parts will be in any way less alarming than heretofore. The following paragraph appeared in the *Evening Mail* of 6th March respecting the rebels in Kuang-tung province:—

"We are glad to learn that the success of the Imperialists in the North-east of Kwang-tung, which were recorded recently, have taken the shape of a more complete victory even than we anticipated. The entire body of rebels under the lead of the Kang Wang, numbering some fifty thousand, and forming the last residuum of the Taipings, have been either slaughtered or taken prisoners. About twenty thousand perished in a conflict lasting two entire days,—the 8th and 9th ultimo—and the remainder have surrendered themselves to the Imperial commanders. The latter have already commenced the work of disbanding their troops, whilst the civil authorities are busy with arrangements for dispersing the prisoners, with whom, to the number of upwards of thirty thousand, they find themselves burdened. The victorious general, Pao Ch'ao, has already left for Hankow, where he is to take the field against the Nien Fei. This success, wiping out the last trace of the Taipings rebellion, will no doubt be peculiarly gratifying to the Peking Government."

From the *North China Daily News* (which contrives to find its subscribers less "matter" and more advertisements for their money than any of its contemporaries,) we glean that a severe defeat has been sustained by a body of "Canton rebels" who had formerly been under the leadership of the Kang Wang but had strayed into the neighbourhood of Luang-san-hsien and Sing-feng-hsing in the province of Kiangse. These men no doubt formed one of the three bands that left Kia-ying after the death of the Kang-wang as reported by the *China Mail*. With regard to this redoubtable general there are conflicting rumours, some announcing his death, others that he escaped in safety.

We also learn from the same source that there is a probability of the *Fung wang shan* Garrison being removed to Nanking leaving behind only a kind of depot company for the purposes of recruiting and drill. The object of this change is said to be the repression of certain popular tumults in Hunan which threaten the peace of the province. The troops by whom Nanking is now garrisoned—most of whom, by the way, are Hunan men—will be marched to the scene of danger in their native province, while the post they evacuate will be occupied by the *Fung wang shan* disciplined contingent. There is also a report that Li Hung-chang is about to exchange the Governor-generalship of the two Kiang for that of the two Hu, and that the work of pacification has been entrusted to him.

This appointment of Li Futai to the Governorship of Hunan is held to be of much importance, as his anti-foreign tendencies and ambitious character are well known. Time alone will show his ultimate intentions, but we ourselves imagine that he will allow sometime to elapse before making any rebellious attempts should he have such in contemplation.

The past week has not afforded any very stirring incidents of home news. Piracy is again heard of, though in one case which has occurred the attempt could hardly be termed piratical. It appears that last week two Chinese junk which had left Macao to pick up "emigrants" along the coast were attacked by pirates not far from Lantau and that the money and opium carried by one of them was captured and Captain killed. The other case was reported in the *Daily Press* of this morning. The *Danmerike* Danish brig was attacked off Achow point and plundered of all her valuables. No lives were taken, and it is supposed that the pirates are beginning to find out the different degree of criminal responsibility attached to piracy with, and piracy without murder.

The measures taken by the French Consul on the *Hongkong* coolie being brought into this port by the *Feisen*, after being discovered and got aboard by that vessel have given rise to a good deal of comment and some rather severe strictures on his conduct. The whole affair, so far as opposition to the law was concerned, seems to have been a mistake, and the well known gentlemanly character of Mons. Du Chesne might have satisfied critics that the mistake was unintentional. However the matter is now arranged, and will not be allowed to interfere with the future friendly feeling which should exist between the government and the French Consul.

Correspondence relative to the Macao Coolie trade has again appeared in the pages of our contemporary. The gaudier has

fairly been thrown down by a correspondent signing himself "China," and the answer of its advocates is awaited with some interest.

On the subject of Coolie mutinies we quote the paragraph hereunder from the *Evening Mail*, the subject being one of great interest to the public both here and abroad:—

"The opening of the first British Emigration House for the West Indies took place at Canton in the autumn of 1859. A number of vessels were despatched to Demerara without disturbance of any kind.

In 1860-1 Cuban houses under French auspices were opened at Canton. Mutinies occurred on board the three ships named *Leonidas*, *Greyhound*, and *Sebastopol*. Three years ensued during which emigration was carried on for the British West Indies alone, without the slightest disturbance on board any of the vessels. In the season 1865-6, however, the Macao barracoons-keepers were once more assisted in opening branches of their business at Canton, and the spirit of mutiny again became heard of. The disorders already reported are as follows:—

French ship *Louis*, (unsuccessful attempt to take the ship.)

French ship *Pride of the Ganges* (successful attempt to take the ship.)

French ship *Hongkong* (successful attempt to take the ship.)

French ship *Ville de St. Lo*, (partially successful attempt to take the ship.)

The need of some organized fire brigade under the control of an executive municipal body has been pointed out in our evening issue. It is much to be hoped that some steps will be taken to remedy the present want of system in this respect.

The publication of the Postmaster General's report for 1865, has afforded correspondents a chance of expressing their dissent from the views we put forth. It is undoubtedly a great advantage to the public to be able to judge of matters affecting the Colonial Revenue, by a free discussion of all matters relating thereto, and we hope that next year the heads of other departments will be instructed to prepare reports for publication also.

A great number of the gentlemen who came from the North to Hongkong for the Races left yesterday per *Dumbarton*. They seem to have done well during their stay in the way of winning money if one can credit all that is said. We hope nevertheless that money matters aside their visits will be enjoyed by all parties in future occasions of the sort as much as this one has been.

The mail is now due but nothing as yet has been heard of it. It would be a pity that our new Governor who is expected to arrive by it should see Hongkong under such unfavourable conditions of weather as those we have experienced to-day. His arrival is eagerly looked for on many grounds. The ladies are asking how he will look, and the gentlemen what he will do; in our next weekly issue we shall perhaps be able to give some information on both points.

BUT a few days ago we noticed the inauguration of a new Company whose steamers which are to run from Suez to India will prove formidable competitors to our well supported, yet nevertheless well abused P. & O. Company. It is perhaps hardly right to say "our" company, as it has long been a self-evident fact that no community of interest binds the P. & O. Company to Hongkong or perhaps to speak in more respectful language, Hongkong to the P. & O. Company. We cannot, however, help acknowledging ourselves moved at having to record facts, which denote the approaching downfall of the great shipping association, which has hitherto lorded it over the stations it has condescended to visit. The "Pacific Mail Steamship Company" has sprung into existence, and its energetic agent Captain PHELPS, late of the United States Navy, is at this moment in Hongkong and, backed as we have reason to believe he is by strong recommendations from our home authorities to the Colonial Government, is likely before long to have put matters in train for making arrangements, which will place Hongkong in direct and satisfactory communication with the United States and England via San Francisco.

We are not of course in possession of the results of Captain PHELPS' interviews with members of the Government, but have grounds for supposing that it is the intention of the company he represents to make Hongkong the Headquarters in China of the new line of steamers. The advantages of such a proceeding are obvious for many reasons. Firstly the passengers from and to China pass almost invariably through Hongkong. Secondly, Hongkong is the great centre for exports, which find their way to the American market—such for instance as Tea which is sent hither from Ningpo—Sugar and Coffee from Java and the islands to the Southward; Hemp, Flax, Sugar and Rice from Manila, for the Sugar-refining Company and Rope-making Company at San Francisco; to say nothing of the multifarious list of less important articles which, exported either direct from China or from neighbouring ports, find convenient depôts in the godowns of our native and foreign merchants. Lastly and by no means least—and to this point we would draw the special attention of our readers—the mutually convenient arrangements, which might be entered into between the British and American Governments with

respect to the transmission of mails would be a very powerful inducement to the New Company to make Hongkong its Headquarters in China.

The duties of the Postmaster General's department here, although already sufficiently arduous, might by a suitable increase in the working staff, (which the revenue could well afford,) be sufficiently lightened to permit of its undertaking the additional work which would be thrown on it by the extra mails which would thus be passed through its hands. In the case of Shanghai the American Government would have the option of either passing its mails through the British Packet Agency for establishing an independent office of its own. Those acquainted with the details of postal work would probably prefer that the former arrangement were made, as in addition to saving trouble and uncertainty to senders and receivers by having one instead of two post offices to deal with, the fact of there being but one postal head in control of the mails would in itself be a recommendation.

With regard to Japan, it is probable that the American Government would be obliged to establish a packet agency at one of its Consulates or elsewhere, though it is not impossible that the British Packet Agent might be able to act for it also.

To return however to Hongkong. We can only say that in common with the public at large we welcome any change which while increasing facilities for communication with the civilized world, tends to abate the somewhat too exclusive monopoly hitherto enjoyed by one company only. We are well aware that the P. & O. ships have done good service in their day and are not disposed to take the part of every parvenu "growler" who finds fault with a table better than that he has probably been accustomed to at home, and with arrangements of which he understands neither the weak points nor the mode to remedy them. But we do, in common with most who have considered the subject find fault with the attitude of indifference manifested on many occasions by the Company in this part of the world to the public convenience,—to their exorbitant charges, deficiently equipped, and small sized ships, their constantly breaking down machinery—by which serious delays often caused—and their general want of care in remedying such evils as may be pointed out to them. For these and other reasons we welcome the inauguration of a new line of steamers and trust that the Company which Captain PHELPS represents will receive the hearty encouragement of every resident in Hongkong.

The fact of a detailed report on the working of one department of our local government, might have obtained but a limited amount of attention from the public had not the pages of our evening issue and those of our morning contemporary brought the matter more prominently before the public, both in reproducing the report itself, and publishing correspondence in reference thereto.

The report of the Postmaster General appears to be the sixth annual statement of the affairs of his department. We are not aware that more than one other such report (and then only in a condensed form for the year 1865) has been made public. However, whatever may have been the reasons which led to the other four reports being kept from the community; the last and sixth which appeared in the Government Gazette on Saturday last, have been given to us, and become thereby fair matter for criticism and examination, and our remarks in reference thereto lead us to impress upon the public that no reason exists why the accounts and reports of the heads of all departments of the administration should not be laid before us as completely and as clearly as that now before us emanating from the Postmaster General.

We believe we have disposed of the charge of "incompleteness" made by our correspondent "EIGURES," by stating that the report and accounts of Post-Office for 1864 no comparison with that year could be made by the public; and this is the real foundation for the charge. The report on the whole must be considered satisfactory, is perhaps established by the result, the profit on this department for the year 1866 amounting to \$35,843.44 having accrued to swell the total revenue of the Colony. Indeed what will be matter of great surprise to many is the fact that the Communities of China, Japan and this Colony can bear the heavy cost of transit for letters as is shown in the gross revenue of the Post Office amounting to \$192,143.06,—bearing this sum in mind we think it becomes the duty of the Government to modify at once some of the charges at present made. The cost of sending heavy letters through the Post Office except by private steamer hence to Shanghai is very great, and when it is considered what little real service is rendered for the 20 or 25 shillings sometimes paid on such packages, the charge seems preposterous. Such service as is rendered by the Post Office in reference to letters sent by private steamer is by

local ordinance compulsory on the sender, but strange to say in one paragraph the report makes known the fact that letters may be, and are carried by P. & O. Company's contract vessels by the hands of those on board, in defiance of the displeasure of the Postmaster General plus the whole Colony from his Excellency the Governor downwards. The colony of course is thereby placed in an anomalous position, but if we are to take for granted the statements contained in the correspondence in the subject which has appeared in the local papers, a remedy lies at the hands of the Government which if adopted, is calculated to allay any ill-feeling that has existed and at the same time prove of advantage, to both merchant and Post Office. The Post Office should afford greater facilities, and close its windows against correspondence for Coast and private vessels only a few minutes prior to the advertised departure of the vessels then the bulk of late correspondence could be posted in due course; at present who can blame the general public for sending letters on board after the Post Office closes for receipt of letters. Of course the staff of the Post Office would require to be increased, but the surplus revenue at present received would admit of it, and it would be matter of surprise if such increase of expenditure will not be met by the postage on letters which doubtless are now sent on board ship.

Assuming however that any such change should not be found profitable to the postal department, its introduction would relieve the community from an unpleasant imputation, which without explanation, has now gone forth to the world, and may be interpreted by the uncharitable into an extensive system of cheating the government.

The publication of the report under remark, the points of interest presented therein and the desirability of the public being permitted to refute false statements and explain inconsistencies which if passed by in silence might be accepted by the Colonial Office at home as facts, induce us to hope that the new Governor of Hongkong Sir R. MacDONNELL, whose reputation for enlightenment has preceded him, will cause the accounts and reports of the several departments to be published to the public in full.

SOME of the remarks on the Missionary body which have lately appeared in our daily issue have, we understand, given much cause for offence to various readers who are unable to draw a distinction between a desire to write down quackery, and a wish to insult the respectable members of a zealous though not always discreet profession. They are content to hear the word "missionary" mentioned in context with expressions of disapproval, and straightway set down the writer as one under the influence of a malignant craving for the downfall of Christianity in the East. It is not in any way our intention to withdraw a single sentence we have recorded, but think it nevertheless advisable to offer some further remarks on the subject.

It is universally admitted that the man who, not properly qualified, attempts to cure the diseases of others for money is a quack—that he, who, with no knowledge of law or legal forms, would act as a lawyer on the same terms is also a "quack"—in fact a "quack" is one who for some inducement pretends to accomplish that which he is not qualified to do. That quackery should be exposed, and if possible suppressed is the conviction of most right thinking men. Why then show the clerical quack more mercy than his brothers in other professions?

Our remarks are intended we may observe for the members of our own church. We have in no way alluded to the pastors of other flocks, and with respect to the Roman Catholic clergy more especially in the North of China, our personal knowledge of them enables us to speak most favourably of their self-denying zeal and general high standard of attainments. We say this simply from conviction as we are in no way personally interested in them; our "proclivities" in the matter of religion do not in any degree whatever tend towards the Roman Catholicism, but we do say most decidedly that were our own missionaries to take example by the priests of that Church, the results of our missions would be far more gratifying.

The question may very naturally be asked—what constitutes a missionary quack? One description of quack is the man whose original position in life being such as to exclude him from the conversation of men of education, has not so used his time as to have acquired a sufficient command of his own or any other language either as a writer or a speaker, to ensure the respectful attention for five minutes of either Europeans or Chinese, and who nevertheless pretends to be "a missionary."

The question of extract is doubtless a sore one to many people. We can only say that if a man be the son of a shoemaker and has by self, or any other sort of education raised himself to the average level of intelligent or educated men, we should be the very last to enquire into his paternal an-

cestry; but if in every act he shows that he is a shoemaker's son; if his language bears the impress of a want of education; if his tact be 'nil' his want of discretion outrageous and his shirt-front—may his very finger nails—show a want of acquaintance with cold water which are evidences of a want of personal respect: then say we one is fully justified in complaining of him as a person of low origin. There are people we know who with all this are men of deep talent; but, if the talent of such an individual finds its only exercise in mischief, making, if his interference in government affairs is constantly annoying our officials, and even jeopardising the lives of those who are in the neighbourhood; if in defiance of the treaty made by us he visits forbidden spots, and then calls on our government to protect him; then we again repeat he is a social sham who does harm to the honorable profession he misrepresents, and is to be held up to the derision of the public at large.

A correspondent who took up our remarks in a manner which said more for his zeal than an appreciation of the importance of condemning clerical quackery for the sake of himself and other real labourers, spoke somewhat strongly on the subject of self-made men, but unfortunately quite missed the point he aimed at. Because various clever men (amongst them the gentleman mentioned as now U.S. Charge d'Affaires at Peking) have distinguished themselves by works of real value, he argues by implication that all missionaries from the mechanic class are necessarily people to be supported. Such an argument scarcely needs refutation, and were we inclined to quote an old, but we admit somewhat fallacious proverb he might be reminded that "the exception proves the rule to be the stronger." However we are not now writing to invite controversy, but simply to point out the harm which is done by missionary societies accepting men of whose capabilities they know or apparently know so little.

There is one point of view which these societies apparently quite overlook in their choice of labourers, viz., their capabilities of influencing and impressing the *foreigners* with whom they come in contact. It is quite useless to point out to Chinese the beauties of Christianity when within a few yards fifty "Christians" can be pointed out living in open violation of certain rules supposed to influence professors of that religion. And to effect this compliance with religious rule on the part of foreigners seems to us to be the duty of the missionary, who to do so must be a man whose personal character and address must in itself be sufficient to secure respect. Even supposing that he does not interfere with the practices of his fellow countrymen he must at all events be able to obtain and keep their consideration, as the usual tone in which these gentlemen are spoken of in the presence of such acute observers as the Chinese is not calculated to increase their importance in native eyes.

The class of men wanted for such important work as missionary labour is one which combines high education with a power of work, acquirement, and adaptability such as not more than two in ten possess; and that greater efforts will be made by the societies at home to send out individuals thus qualified is to be hoped by all who wish well to the missionary cause.

A VERY large proportion of residents both British and Foreign in this Colony, and on the coast of China, are no doubt often astonished to hear persons whose sum of residence extends over the past five years express themselves regarding the happiness and prosperity of "the good old times in China."

Beyond the fond expression itself, it is to be gathered that in those days the foundation of large and successful business operations between foreigners and the natives of the country was confidence in well tried unwavering integrity, and faith in intention, willingness, and ability to perform written or even verbal undertakings. In those days too little recourse was it appears had to the law; the arbitrator was often called in than the lawyer. Although it may be well to state that the term "good old times" implies the aggregate estimate of period referred to, it would be idle to ignore that which we know to be the fact; namely that cases of dishonesty did occur even then, but were striking exceptions and remembered as such.

The unusual facility afforded by native merchants in those days, were the foundation for an enormous and profitable trade; and as years rolled on, fortunes of greater or less extent rewarded the enterprise of the foreigner and were equally satisfactory to the native dealers.

Not only was money very easily accumulated in those days, but the fame of the fortunate ones spread amongst their neighbours on the spot, and even to their less fortunate brethren at home.

But on the spot the comfortable and quick manner in which money was made had its results; a feeling of easiness as regards money matters was engendered, which resulted in an enhanced expenditure

and a reckless disregard of the cost of living. In this respect, quickly acquired riches in their influences exemplified the old saying that fortune "hath no power over discretion."

It is told to us on our arrival here that one of the strongest characteristics of the Chinese is repugnance to change, and it has doubtless been a matter of deep regret to many that they have found such to be the fact. The Chinese have pertinaciously adhered to the old exorbitant charges, inaugurated by our more fortunate predecessors in the "good old times," and although perforce modified to some extent,—this is we regret to say the most prominent remnant extant of the period we point to.

We venture to assert that most of the foreign residents in this Island are persons whose income is defined, and such would we are sure, be delighted at a prospect of being able to reduce the charges enforced in the bazaar for table necessities. Any effort in that direction should we imagine be supported by the heads of the large houses, and we believe indications of a desire to afford such support which should practically recognise the absurdity of maintaining the disproportionate expenditure of the "good old times" now a days; have appeared in that quarter. Once strenuously insisted upon, and assisted therein, heartily and practically by the heads of the larger houses the immense difficulty persons of limited income experience in confining their expenditure will materially diminish and the prospect of a reduction of ordinary *bazaar* expenditure will create hopes in many struggling homes that the days to come may be marked by a less necessary reckless expenditure than heretofore.

Amongst folks of limited means:—those we mean who have of late years arrived in the Colony:—it has been a difficult matter to account for the fact that the actual cost of living is persistently kept up by native employees to the old standard which arose and became established in the good old times; and the popularly received dogma of the repugnance to change from established custom may be assumed to have taken its rise to a great extent (at least on this question of *bazaar* accounts) about the same period.

As we believe that "every light has its shadow," so we believe that the disabilities under which we have lately, and are now struggling, will leave behind that which will influence for good the future both of this Colony and foreign trade with China.

But coming more directly to the point, to which our remarks tend, we say that although the extravagance of past days must be modified, we cannot expect to enjoy the full advantage at once. Our belief is that those with whom the power of beneficial example rests, are beginning to admit the prospect of change, which while of proportionate benefit to themselves, will directly or indirectly in time and in a far greater degree similarly effect the bulk of the community. It should not be lost sight of in considering the expense of residence in this Colony, that many influential persons whose income is fixed at a point calculated to cover all ordinary expenses, will acknowledge that times of late have been such as to exclude all chance of laying by money, between (average monthly expenditure and fixed monthly income); and another essential consideration arises, namely how far the Government of the Colony can if it likes render assistance to the community by establishing new markets for meat, fish, fowl, vegetables and fruit, by abolishing the restrictions which at present confine dealers in those necessities within the boundaries of present—or for that matter any subsequently created markets.—We should then be able to buy food where, and of whom we liked and we should most certainly overthrow in due time that almost fabulous monopoly now existing in the present markets which strangle to say increases the cost fully 50 per cent beyond its real value. The Chinese as a principle are but too much disposed to establish and cling to monopoly in any form, but the Governor of this Colony would dissipate accusations of leaning to similar practices if the tenements in the central market were disposed of by public Auction. We should then have the property in the ownership of a number of persons, which fact, though it would not at all please the present monopolist tenants, would nevertheless, in all probability, deal a death blow to the exorbitant system of prices now prevailing.

NOTES FOR TOURISTS IN THE NORTH OF CHINA.

ART. IX.

Opposite to the *Ping-ho-ling* in the North East Corner of Peking lies the *Wan Miao* or Confucian temple of which the following graphic account has been given by Mr. Michie in his work the "Siberian Overland Route."

"The Confucian temple was the first object of our curiosity. Here the great sage is worshipped by the Emperor once a year, without the medium of paintings or images. In the central shrine there is merely a small piece of wood, a few characters inscribed on it, the name of the sage, I believe. On the sides are a number of still smaller wooden labels, representing

the disciples and commoners elucidated the writings of the temple contains a number of which are engraved on stones conferred on literate obtain a place here is the title of Chinese scholars. There are a number of yards there are a number of have been planted during the Mongol dynasty, many ago. These trees have their growth, however, and considering their age, and the number of their appointments, a variety of successive emperors and present dynasty has been its predecessors in this the of the temple, and has replaced by new ones of are, however, several more in the Confucian temple for can at once, from the date of any of the inscriptions in doubt, the inscription part sufficiently legible. In another part of the temple, are some very curious shaped, dated from 800 years have been carefully preserved, tooth of time has obliterated on them. The ters are still to be seen ever. The view, a no less point of view, is kept clearly enough, it is kept in the temple, a variety of public buildings general, the interior walls are of the wooden boards, richly painted names of the successive gilt characters. On the paper he at once adds his list.

"The hall erected by Kienloong, although it from 1736 to 1790, lion, not very large, but and in perfect good taste. Round it is a promenade marble with balustrade a little distance from the pavilion is intended through the arch, from yards behind it, so the frame for the main part produced a regular and infinite subject to the eye, who, by the bye, seem to be in the habit of identifying the capital. in the middle of a large two sides of which, a double row of stone feet high. On these in clear and distinct the Chinese classics, they can be seen, and actually been struck off and are held in very high esteem.

This temple is said to be a portrait of Confucius, but the writing to have seen it. No events exists in any great men of China, and case would be strikingly performed in the *Wan Miao* incense-burning takes temples to the memory of China.

Near the south-west Imperial City stands a mosque, and a large one in its vicinity, whose arch from Turkestan about part of the city is a resort of all Mohammedan capital from ill-fated mosques, but this is the inspection of strange white stone and the architecture is decorated with variously attracts attention with all other buildings, son of its erection as the rians is as follows. It had a favourite wife to him as tribute to a minimal subjection to After a few years home upon her, and aware of the native country, new law forbade it) to devise some means home scenes associated building a mosque w to her from the palace to look abroad. T with her wishes and of a Moorish building Peking.

A great number live in the lanes, the mosque. The cases, despite the d faces very good lo a class of beauty fo inhabit. Their m pleasing, and they a quaintness with of the God of the Ch of their own religi the same.

Inside the *Ping-ho-ling* a temple which as being a good sp tion of building. H allowed to pass in the gate, but are o and pass behind a to it.

The *Hu-pu-su* is a shrine. Its chief on the 7th, 8th, 17 of each Chinese m is a temple also m of its fair which is places. It takes p 10th, 20th, 29th an month. Here is the pictures, birds, co make a point of vis

The Yamen for affairs not being h notice of several o offer as described. "Notes" intended slight notice of the lians will conclude interesting sights a king.

An annual emb from Corea bearing paper, ginseng, cines. The embas officers (three of w and 100 servants), is immediately und south *Yu-ho-shiao* foreign Legations. white or a pale b very peculiar hats, red hair renders th

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TES FOR TOURISTS IN THE NORTH OF CHINA

ART. IX.

to the Yang-ho-king in the North Corner of Peking lies the *Wan Miao* or Confucian temple of which the graphic account has been given in his work the "Siberian and Route."

An annual embassy is sent to Peking from Corea bearing tribute in the shape of paper, ginseng, dyestuffs, satin and medicines. The embassy consists of about ten officers (three of whom are of the first rank) and 100 servants, carter, etc. Their lodging is immediately under the south wall by the south *Yue-ho-chiao* and not far from the gate. Their dress is usually white or a pale blue, and this with their very peculiar hats, long pipes and top knot hair renders them conspicuous objects

when met in the street. They are stated by the Chinese to be fierce and intolerant of strangers, but the writer has never experienced any difficulty in visiting their residence and has invariably found them very courteous. Their chief fault is rather in their inextinguishable curiosity if once introduced into foreign quarters and a child-like way of asking for whatever takes their fancy. Their usual time of arrival is about November, and they depart about February or the beginning of March. Popular report says that the presents conferred on them in exchange for the tribute brought in are of considerable value and that they keep up a custom which it is doubtful if the Chinese government could now enforce should they decline to comply with it. The Mongolians visit and leave Peking about the same time as the Coreans. Men and women are alike built on the lowest type of human ugliness; but though vindictive when roused they are said to possess an amazing stock of good humour and simplicity. In fact they are the "Johnny Raws" of the capital, and the cunning Chinese do not fail to take advantage of their want of "savvy." Should the traveller be in Peking at that time of their visit he is recommended to take a walk round the Mongolian market situated just as the back of the British Legation, and should he be an artist, he will probably not regret having done so. Of next article will contain a notice of some of the more interesting places to be visited outside the walls.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING COMPANY.

AN extraordinary Meeting of the Shareholders of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Company was held at the Company's Offices, Wardley House, at 11 A.M. on Saturday, the third day of March.

Present: Messrs. Chomley, Sutherland, Heard, Lippincott, McLellan, Nissen, Sassoon, Pallanjee, Framjee, Landstein, Bosman, Meyer, Hauschild, Arnold, Pollard, Monte, R. Pastonjee, Bourjain, A. Pastonjee, Kneale, Bennis, Foster, Dr. Murray, Dr. Schellberg, Van Rensselaer, Groen, Von Bergen, Deeken, Walker, J. Whyte, Taffs, Pattell, Deacon, Omballa, Kresser, Noronha, Turner, Hutchinson, Price, J. dos Remedios, Cox, Carvalho, Tuning, Rozario, Diack, Alhmann, Lambert, R. R. dos Remedios, Purdon, Moody, Hobson, J. Rastomjee, Schwemann, &c., &c.

The Honorable Francis Chomley presided as Chairman, and the Honorable Thomas Sutherland as Deputy Chairman. The Chairman opened the proceedings by reading the Circular published to the Shareholders calling the present extraordinary Meeting.

The Deputy Chairman then rose and said that he had now to propose a resolution in regard to the capital of the Bank, in conformity with the Directors' Circular dated the 26th February which he would read to the meeting. It was to the following effect:—

WITH reference to the Notice of the 9th January and the resolution passed in General Meeting on the 12th instant with regard to an increase of the Capital of the Bank, the Directors now beg leave to intimate their intention of bringing forward the following proposal at the Extraordinary Meeting to be held on the 3rd proximo:—That the existing 20,000 Shares of £250 each which constitute the Capital of the Bank shall be divided into 40,000 of £125. That of the latter 20,000 shares fully paid up, shall be exchanged for the scrip held by the present shareholders, and that the remaining 20,000 shares on which a call of £25 per share will be made on the 1st July be offered at par to the present Shareholders, each according to the number of Shares held by each person.

The Directors consider that this proposed redistribution of shares will more fully meet the interest of Shareholders at the present moment than would be done by an increase of the subscribed Capital.

By order of the Court of Directors, (Signed) V. KRESSER, Manager.

Hongkong, 26 February, 1866.

Mr Sutherland said the proprietors had unanimously consented, at the General Meeting, to suspend discussion on this point till the present moment. It would be observed, that the proposal would be before the meeting at a considerably later date than the Directors' first announcement of their views with regard to increasing the capital of the Bank, the reason of which simply was that the status of the Bank had, since that time, been altered in very important respects.

He had already explained, at the General Meeting, what the views of the Directors were in desiring to increase the capital. First, that the Bank really required it. Secondly, that it would be a desirable policy to widen their constituency. And thirdly, that the reserve or unpaid capital of the Bank, being only £2,500,000 was held by the most competent authorities to be insufficient. On the last of these points he should explain, that London Bankers, and others from whom the Bank had to receive very large credits, in order to carry on its operations properly, always looked to paid capital as the reserve rather than that of paid capital as the reserve rather than that of paid capital as the reserve.

They had therefore been advised to increase their nominal capital to £10,000,000, only calling up actually, such a very moderate amount of it as the Bank really required for working.

Taking this and the other objects they had in view into consideration, the Directors had intended to propose the issue of New Capital to the extent of £2,500,000 which would have made the subscribed capital of the Bank equal to £7,500,000. This they entertained under the impression that the Bank would continue, for some time at least, under the Companies Ordinance of 1865. But before they could bring their proposals forward, the Secretary of State disallowed the operation of that Act as far as concerns Banks; while at the same time, offered to grant the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Company a distinct incorporation on terms which he (the speaker) trusted would prove even more advantageous than ordinary registration under the "Limited Liability" Law. Of these conditions he would only say at present, that they were under discussion, and any delay in completing the incorporation could only arise from the desire of the Directors to secure the most favorable terms for the interests of the Bank.

One of the most prominent conditions of incorporation, however already known, namely, that the Shareholders would have, as usual with all Chartered Banks, to be answerable for twice the amount of subscribed Capital. They would therefore be bound to the extent, not of five, but, of ten Millions of dollars.

This would fully meet the reserve of unpaid capital looked for from London and elsewhere; and it rendered the Directors herefore, less anxious than they had been,

to issue new shares. In fact they felt that if they called for an additional £2,500,000 of subscribed capital, that the proprietors being then answerable to the extent of £15,000,000, their responsibility would be almost needlessly increased without any commensurate object. Of course the question of responsibility for such an amount, was not one likely to occur practically, but it was as well to avoid it in any shape, beyond what was absolutely necessary. This then was the reason which induced the Directors to vary their original proposals. The proprietors would understand that the primary reason for additional paid up capital, financed in force. To carry on the business entrusted to the Bank, the Directors would require £500,000 additional paid up capital in the course of the present year. Comparing their business and their paid up capital with those of other Eastern Banks, it would be seen that the latter was inadequate; and as the Bank had to spread out in other directions, than merely Hongkong and Shanghai, in order to satisfy the wants of its constituents, a call on the Shares, or an issue of New Stock was imminent. In recommending the former, the Directors considered that there would be a great advantage in diminishing the nominal or subscribed value of the shares to half its present amount, and they therefore recommended that course. The subscribed share of £125 would be a far more manageable commodity than one of double the amount; and there would also be an advantage in having one class of shares fully paid up, and one with a smaller sum paid on them.

With regard to the extension of the proprietary, although the Directors considered it a most desirable object, they did not, as they were not now recommending a fresh issue of capital, feel that existing shareholders should be asked to yield their claims in respect of any portion of the £5,000,000 which they had originally subscribed. Still if any of them felt inclined to reject the shares to be offered them under this proposal, the Directors did not doubt their ability to allot those shares otherwise, for the advantage of the Bank. With these few explanatory remarks, he would beg leave to propose as follows:—

That the existing 20,000 shares of £250 each which constitute the capital of the Bank shall be divided into 40,000 of £125. That of the latter 20,000 shares fully paid up, shall be exchanged for the scrip held by the present shareholders, and that the remaining 20,000 shares on which a call of £25 per share will be made on the 1st July be offered at par to the present Shareholders, each according to the number of Shares held by each person.

Mr Nissen rose to second the resolution and the Chairman invited the shareholders to put any amendment they might think advisable.

Dr Murray addressed the Chairman with a view, to know whether every shareholder, in return for his scrip, was entitled to one share fully paid up, and one share on which a call of £25 per share would be made in July; and whether each holder of scrip would have liberty to accept or refuse the share; and also whether the present shareholders would be entitled to claim any shares refused by others? He would beg to move, as an amendment, that all unappropriated shares should be divided pro rata among the shareholders according to application, and that none should be offered to the public until the whole proprietary had refused to accept them.

Deputy Chairman said that he thought, that very few shares, if any, would not be taken by the original shareholders, but that should any remain unallotted, the Directors might be able to dispose of them at a premium. He thought that Dr Murray's amendment would be better put in the form of a separate resolution if the main proposal were carried.

Dr Murray agreed to this, and Mr Sutherland's proposal being put, was unanimously carried.

Dr Murray proposed and Mr Bosman seconded, a resolution to the effect that any surplus shares rejected by one set of proprietors should be tendered to the other shareholders.

Mr Whyte expressed his opinion, that the Directors were the best judges of what to do, and that the proposal was referred to, and proposed, as an amendment to Dr Murray's resolution, that the appropriation of any unallotted shares, should be left entirely to the Directors.

Mr Walker seconded the amendment which being put to the meeting, was carried by a large majority.

Mr Heard then rose and proposed, that clauses 6, 7, 8, 9, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

Dr Murray said that the question being of importance he would advise delay, that the attention of the shareholders might be drawn to the proposed amendments, by the fact that a few remarks from Mr Whyte, Mr Pollard and the request of the Vice-Chairman, the amended, clauses illustrating that the alterations made were merely those made necessary by reason of the change in the number of shares, and that their bearing and character were unchanged.

Some remarks were made by a shareholder to the effect that the fact of Mr Pollard having drawn attention to the fact that shareholders must have agencies here to collect their dividends, &c., and that four months was ample to communicate with any part of the world.

At the conclusion of Mr Pollard's remarks, Mr Bosman, seconded by Mr Rennie, proposed as an amendment to the original resolution that the maximum call be reduced from \$50 a \$25 per share, and the notice of call increased from one month to four months. This amendment was agreed to.

The amended clauses were then passed, (as inserted hereunder) and clause 118 was repealed.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman, manager, and Directors proposed by Mr Whyte.

(5.) The Capital of the Company shall consist of Five Millions of Dollars, and the original Twenty Thousand Shares of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars each, into which the Capital was originally divided upon which a sum of One Hundred and Twenty Five Dollars per Share has been paid up shall be delivered up, cancelled, and destroyed, and the said Capital shall henceforth be subdivided into Forty Thousand Shares of One Hundred and Twenty Five Dollars each, Twenty Thousand of which shall be called "Paid up Shares" and shall be delivered to the holders of the original Twenty Thousand Shares in the

same number of Twenty Five Dollars each Shareholder may hold or possess such original Shares, and that the other Twenty Thousand Shares of One Hundred and Twenty Five Dollars each shall be offered to the said holders of the Twenty Thousand original Shares at par, in the like manner as hereinafter provided for with respect to Shares in any increase of Capital and subject to the like provisions in case of the non-acceptance or rejection thereof by the Shareholders to whom they are offered, and also subject to the payment of calls on such Shares as hereinafter provided for.

(6.) Every person entitled to be entitled to any Shares by allotment shall pay or be liable to pay in respect of such Share held by him the sum of One Hundred and Twenty Five Dollars. No Shareholder shall be liable, for or in respect of any debt or liability of the Company to any further amount than the sum of One Hundred and Twenty Five Dollars in the whole, to be paid upon or in respect of each of the several Shares held by him, save only and except such liability (if any) as shall arise by any provision by statute by reason of the Company issuing notes, in case it shall issue notes, or by reason of any provision on any incorporation of the Company to be hereafter obtained and that no person shall be entitled to take less than One Share or to divide his Shares, and each Shareholder shall be entitled to and be interested in the profits in proportion to the number of his Shares.

(7.) Every person entitled to any such "Paid up Shares" shall receive a Certificate in the form set forth in Part I. of the Schedule hereto, and every person accepting or otherwise within the meaning of the present articles becoming possessed of or entitled to any of the original Twenty Thousand Shares, shall on or before the 1st day of July A.D. 1866, pay at the Head Office of the Company a call of Twenty Five Dollars on each Share so accepted, possessed or held by such person and shall as soon as he shall execute these presents, receive a Certificate in the form set forth in Part II. of the Schedule hereto. And every such person shall henceforth be and continue the sole Shareholder of the Company in respect of his said Shares or "Paid up Shares" for all purposes, both at Law and in Equity, until he shall cease so to be by any of the means herein specified.

(8.) As to all Shares to be allotted, and as to increased or additional number of Shares created or to be created, hereinafter expressed, the allotment thereof respectively shall exclusively appertain to and be vested in the Court at its absolute discretion. And every future allottee of Shares shall become a Shareholder and receive a Certificate of the Shares held by him in manner provided for by, and subject to the conditions of, these presents.

(9.) The form of Certificate of Shares shall be in the form set forth in Part I. and II. of the schedule hereto so far as the same shall be applicable, and shall be signed by any two of the Directors or by some person appointed in that behalf at a Court. And in case at any time such Certificate is proved to the satisfaction of the Court to have been worn out or lost, or such less sum as the Court may think fit, shall be granted on payment of \$1, or such less sum as the Court may think fit, shall be prescribed.

(10.) Shares in the Company shall be transferred in or to the effect of the form, set forth in Part III. of the Schedule hereto.

(11.) Every Shareholder holding any of the said Twenty Thousand Shares, other than "Paid up Shares" shall in addition to the Call of Twenty Five Dollars per Share upon such Shares herebefore provided for pay, on such days, and at such place, as the Court shall for that purpose appoint, the further sum of One Hundred Dollars on each Share by such instalments not exceeding Fifty Dollars each as the Court shall require, by a previous notice of, at least one month, but no such instalment shall be made payable at an earlier period than one month from the day fixed for the payment of the preceding Call, and the parties to the first part and the said William Chesterman Hunter, his executors, administrators, or any one or either of them shall have full power to sue for and recover the amount so called, and interest, on behalf of the Company.

(12.) No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a Quorum of Shareholders be present. Fifty Shareholders present in person or by proxy and representing in the whole Five Thousand Shares shall form such Quorum.

(13.) Every Instrument appointing a Proxy shall be in the form set forth in Part IV. of the schedule hereto.

(14.) Every Shareholder holding one share and not more than ten shares shall have one vote, and every Shareholder holding more than ten shares shall have three votes, and every Shareholder holding more than 25 shares shall have one more vote for every additional twenty-five shares held by him, no Shareholder shall have more than fifty votes.

(15.) Every Shareholder holding more than one share shall have three votes, and every Shareholder holding more than 25 shares shall have one more vote for every additional twenty-five shares held by him, no Shareholder shall have more than fifty votes.

(16.) Every Shareholder holding more than one share shall have three votes, and every Shareholder holding more than 25 shares shall have one more vote for every additional twenty-five shares held by him, no Shareholder shall have more than fifty votes.

(17.) Every Shareholder holding more than one share shall have three votes, and every Shareholder holding more than 25 shares shall have one more vote for every additional twenty-five shares held by him, no Shareholder shall have more than fifty votes.

(18.) Every Shareholder holding more than one share shall have three votes, and every Shareholder holding more than 25 shares shall have one more vote for every additional twenty-five shares held by him, no Shareholder shall have more than fifty votes.

(19.) Every Shareholder holding more than one share shall have three votes, and every Shareholder holding more than 25 shares shall have one more vote for every additional twenty-five shares held by him, no Shareholder shall have more than fifty votes.

(20.) Every Shareholder holding more than one share shall have three votes, and every Shareholder holding more than 25 shares shall have one more vote for every additional twenty-five shares held by him, no Shareholder shall have more than fifty votes.

(21.) Every Shareholder holding more than one share shall have three votes, and every Shareholder holding more than 25 shares shall have one more vote for every additional twenty-five shares held by him, no Shareholder shall have more than fifty votes.

(22.) Every Shareholder holding more than one share shall have three votes, and every Shareholder holding more than 25 shares shall have one more vote for every additional twenty-five shares held by him, no Shareholder shall have more than fifty votes.

vades the hills of the West river; they are close to, in fact the hill stand on a spur of one of them; cultivation is carried on the narrow valleys, and on terraces some distance up the ravines. To the South and East is the pleasant undulating country like that to the North of the White Cloud Hills, backed however by mountains in the rear as high as any I have seen in Kwangtung, and they again by still loftier ranges, those distant summits, towering up much higher, present only a hazy blue outline on the sky beyond. To the East and North East, there is level paddy and sugar ground with hills interspersed, and the city of San-hing almost hidden, as Chinese cities always appear from a distance, by heavy foliage, while the Eastern branch of the stream can be traced following its sinuous far away to the Southward, decreasing however to the dimensions of a rivulet twining through a sandy bed to what must be a considerable torrent during heavy rains, until, at a distance of ten miles it appears to lose itself altogether at the base of the hills.

RIVER STEAMERS.

HONGKONG, MACAO AND CANTON.

Vessel	Flag	Captain	Tons	Horse-power	Owners or Agents
Fame	British		90	110	H. & W. Dock Company The
Fai-see	"	Mason	955		Hongkong C. and M. Shipping C.pany
Fire Dart	"	H. nings	420		Do.
Kin Shan	"	Hosball	550		Do.
Min Kiang	Amor.	Taylor	1065		Russell and Co
Latin	British	Padgham	69		Acheong
Sir J. Jasjeebhoy	"	Duncan	150		Acheong
Spark	Amor.	Palls	140		Thomas Hunt & Co
Plymouth, Rock	"	Newton	3380		Russell and Co
Prince Albert	British		180		Acheong
White Cloud		Carrol	380		Hongkong C. and M. C.pany

CANTON.		Ten lbs.	Silk lbs.	SHANGHAE.		Ten lbs.	Silk lbs.
JUNR.				JUNR.			
Chalgrove,		298,600		Fire Queen,		933,800	
Pakwan,		1,109,400		William Melunish,		687,600	
Behar,			2,863	Eliza		946,300	
Imperatrice,			4,006	Silver Eagle,		1,126,300	
Orléans,			3,301	Guinevere,		864,600	
JULY.				Challenger, (from H'kow),		848,900	
Rangoon,			4,715	Isles of the South, (do.),		1,039,900	
Tigre,			5,768	AUGUR.			
Northfleet,		1,087,000		Gossamer,		950,400	297
Valdivia,		440,700		Highflyer,		1,181,400	
Carnegie,			4,235	Ethiopian,		995,600	28
AUGUST.				Elizabeth Nicholson,		1,132,800	
Scawfell,		869,300		Golden Spur,		745,000	20
Mary Nicholson,		692,700		Grassus, (from Hankow),		912,400	
Constance,		290,900		Weymouth, do.,		1,095,600	
Emeu,			4,280	AUGUR.			
Donnai,			2,077	Ellen Rodger,		605,900	
Behar,			3,021	John Rodget,		868,500	
SEPTEMBER.				Star of China,		1,018,300	
Scawfell, (from Hongkong),		85,900		Norwood,		872,300	
Herald,		657,000		Hoang Ho, (from Hankow)		678,500	
Veronica,		419,200		Psychow, do.,		992,100	
Orissa,			2,643	Dunkeld,		868,500	
Alpheo,			1,389	Red Deer,		957,500	
Ganges,			1,206	Bunsawak,		915,200	
OCTOBER.				Kelso,		731,300	134
Barot,			3,210	Neville, (from Hankow),		818,500	
Cambridge,			735	Phillip Nelson, (do.),		550,000	
Yaratilda,		607,100		SEPTEMBER.			
Tamerlane,		589,200		Ast Union,		836,300	
Yaratilda, (from Macao),		419,300		Starman,		909,600	
Tamerlane, do.,		326,500		Garrawalt, (lost Oct. 1.)		272
NOVEMBER.				Iron Crown, (from H'kow),		1,031,400	
Emeu,			1,594	OCTOBER.			
Spanker,		525,400		Durtnow,		1,130,300	171
Ann Archbell,		857,900		Gleamair,		1,067,100	
Santon,		695,800		Lord Clyde,		627,700	
Stirlingshire,		647,000		Palmaise,		773,600	169
Benares,			1,807	St. And.'s Castle, (F. H'kow)		868,200	
Imperatrice,			1,569	Patna,		909,400	
DECEMBER.				Wild Deer,		1,334,200	
Shibette,			1,306	Queen of the Ocean,		908,400	
Singapore,			1,109	Ensign,		575,100	
Tigre,			980	Emperor, (from Kiukiang),		449,200	
JANUARY.				NOVEMBER.			
Ottawa,			1,253	Helen Nelson,		883,400	76
James Russell,		975,200		Prince Alfred,		923,600	
Jeddo,			1,415	Robin Hood,		1,273,300	
Donnai,			697	Whitehall,		1,058,900	
Mountain Ash,		573,000		Invincible,		860,800	
February.				Horus,		944,400	
Emeu,			746	DECEMBER.			
Victoria,				Glencoe,		859,500	
Queen of the Age,		931,900		City of Quebec,		845,500	
Victoria, from Macao,		104,300		Helen Finlayson,		495,400	
Benares,			1,111	Earl Dalhousie,		1,185,500	
Alpheo,			367	Patrician,		1,435,200	
		13,47					

FUCHAU.		Rajan of Cocum,	1,170,000	
		Peichlede,	429,900	
		Peter Denny,	1,243,700	
JUNE.		February,		
Fiery Cross,	950,400	James Shepherd,	895,100	
Serica,	1,021,800			
Yangtze,	959,800			
7th,	649,600			
			47,935,200	1,167

MACAO.

SHIP'S NAME	CAPTAIN	FLAG	TONS	DATE OF ARRIVAL	COMMISSIONER OR AGENT	DISTINCTION	INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL
Altagracia	Landa	sp. bk.	227	Dec. 18 N	Troncoso and Co		
Amalia	Pollo	lt. bk.	344	Dec. 18	St. A. Remedios		
Argonaut	Prayer	Sp. bk.	480	Feb. 10	Raynal and Co		
S. Habana No. 1	Umagu	Sp. bk.	440	Jan. 6	Order		
Hengali	Demiaux	Fr. bk.	432		Landstein and Co	Havana	
Gurdus & Ha. n. 2	Certina	Fr. bk.	440	Jan. 21	St. A. Silva		
	Nesem	Fr. bk.	705	Jan. 26	M. del Rio		
Columbo	Stephano	lt. sh.	705	Dec. 19	Jardine, Matheson & Co		Pennam
Concordia	Grill	Fr. bk.	526	Nov. 18	Ag. Heard and Co	Singapore	
Cratina	O'R-an	Per. bk.	805		Calvent and Co		
	W. Barbeto	Fr. sh.	727		Order		
D. Maria Rie	Santos	Port. sh.	773	Apr. 17	E. de Castro and Co		
Dolores Ugarte	Olano	Port. sh.	1200	Dec. 31	F. de C. and Co		
Edith	Hansen	Pr. bk.	273	Dec. 31	F. de C. and Co	London	
Emma	Wich	Ch. bk.	301	Jan. 4	Order		
Emancipation	Die Varrd	Sp. bk.	433	Dec. 23	F. de C. and Co		
Interdependence	Delmauso	Fr. bk.	385	Jan. 26	P. Decourt		
J. A. V	Soltura	H. bk.	526	Feb. 15	St. A. de Gracia		
J. A. V	Jarrena	Fr. bk.	834	Jan. 22	Order		Coolest
Julia Canavero	Osavaso	lt. sh.	1333	Jan. 22	Canavero and Co	Callao	
Mouise de Nantes	Fuges	Fr. sh.	468	Dec. 30	Order		
Napoleon Canavero	Demore	lt. sh.	1216	Dec. 18	St. A. Canavero		
S. V. Garcia	Dancien	Pr. bk.	113	Feb. 2	B. Bich, Livingston and Co		
Tek Tok	Kier	H. bk.	320	Feb. 5	Raynal		
Tremela	Landor	Fr. bk.	371	Aug. 21	Marquez		
Trio	Leges	Port. bk.	360	Feb. 8	Raynal and Co	Coolest,	
Ungava	Ungava	lt. sh.	978	Feb. 19	Castor and Co		

SHIP'S NAME	CAPTAIN	FLAG & RIG	TONS	DATE OF ARRIVAL	CUSTOMS INSPECTOR AGENT	DESTINATION	REMARKS
Aurelia	Howes	Am. bk	435		Russell and Co	For guson	Done
Asia	Timoney	It. sb.	819		Order		
Carmeline	Gallet	Fr. bk	125	Jan. 20		Havana	Cooling
Carionizula	Witte	B. sh	606	Sept. 28	Laudin	Repairing	G. d. c.
Denis	Haron	Fr. bk	586		Laudin and Co	Havana	
Der West	Past	Pr. sh.	541		Siemens and Co		
Edward Ho	Byrne	B. sh.	807		Russell and Co	N. York	
Falcon	Sullivan	Pa. bk	392		O. Laprain and Co	N. K. S. dock	in d. c.
Flore	Lafontaine	Fr. bk	336		Laudin and Co	Havana	
Harasser	Petersen	Am. bk	466		Siemens and Co	N. K. S. dock	
Nile	Johnston	S. k.	635	23	Oxford and Co	Laid up	Imm
Rosario Lepanto	Borodols	S. p. g.	203	Feb. 14	Reynolds and Co	Hongkong	
Pekin	B. str.	423	Oct. 19	2 and O. S. T. Co	Smith, Kennedy and Co	Demerara	Early
P. of the Ganges	Knivell	S. k.	841	Jan. 28	Phillips Moore and Co	Laid up	
South Western	Wagg	B. str.	123	Feb. 1	Admir		
Talies	Walf	Am. bk	232		Order		
Tientsin	Underwood	B. str.	195	Sept. 18	Adam Scott and Co	For Sale	Laid up

RECEIVING SHIPS.					
Vessel	At	Flag & Rig.	Tons.	Captain	Owners
Port William	Hongkong	B. sh.	1090	Ahlmann	P. & O. S. N. Steam Co
John Adam	"	B. bk.	318	Bunceboke	D. Sassoon Sons and Co
Tromsøe	Macao	P. bk.	840	Marques	Callao Est.
Mahamoodie	Poh-chau	B. bk.	392	Oliver	Jardine, Matheson & Co
Suipæ	Ningpo	B. bk.	341	Green	Jardine, Matheson & Co
Ann Welch	Shanghai	B. bk.	341	Roundy	Augustine Heard and Co
Suipæ	"	B. sh.	528	Kaypell	P. Francis Cairns and Co
Water Witch	"	B. sh.	427	Lewis	Captain Lewis
Lady Hayes	"	B. bk.	334	Patridge	Jardine, Matheson & Co
Wellington	"	B. bk.	472	Bennett	David Sassoon, Rom & Co
Fahdender	Ta-ksu, Formosa	B. sh.	363		Jardine, Matheson & Co
Ternate	"	B. bk.			Dent and Co

current term.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING.—Five Lines and under, *One Dollar*; each additional Line, *Twenty Cents*—*One-half* of these Charges for Repetitions.

PRICE OF THE OVERLAND CHINA MAIL.—To Subscribers to the Weekly Paper, *Eight Spanish Dollars*; To Non-subscribers to the Weekly Paper, *Twelve Dollars*.

AGENTS.—London, F. ALGAR, 11 Clement's Lane, Lombard Street. Swatow, DROWN & CO.
Amoy, GILES & Co. Fuhchau, A. D. DOBIE. Shanghai, H. FOGG & Co. Manila, C. KARUTH
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PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY A. SHORTREDE & Co., No. 2 WYNDHAM STREET, HONGKONG.

THE DRAINAGE OF HONGKONG is so frequently an unhealthy residence, that respect its inhabitants to the existence of any likely to materially improve the sanitary condition of the place however proves a disposition which is preferred by an eastern life which are of the most interesting; and our remarks is to be found at the present moment, odour, the reverse of a blow from Arab the mouth of various the Colony of Victoria. At the present season harm done by miasma happens not great, the injury inflicted on the the Nose. But in hot weather it becomes attention to an evil come insupportable, a sent arrangements as sewers threatens to a serious degree. Water adequate to the season be abated, the tolerably effective in view to meet the The evil seems then a defective water of the previous fluid for utilizing it, for important sanitary usually applied.

That we are not
sible evils which may
of due precautions in
print from the *Colombo*
January the following
letter recently address
that paper by the Com
&c. at the settlement
Colombo, 18

DEAR SIR,—The ac
ter from "The Yeoma
climatiser," of the 7
the subject of Drainag
applicable to the pres
of Colombo, in near
that I believe it well
tion in your column
when Colombo is on
Municipality

(Editorial remarks in the Australian.)

"The ample supply of blessing in fine sense, and the abundance of consolation, thus afforded, far outweighed the loss of all of the refuse, and the city. If the party and the basement of simultaneously lifted, would reveal a nest, enough to make them householders stand or eats, drinks, moves as of quiescent gases, which only create a quantity of nausea, headache, too, and always ready, sufficiently to make a blow in the shape of a

"That outbreaks of gastric fever, are essentially defective drainage, universally acknowledged, and that the fever poison is generally sewage, or merely in quite so, certain; but exists as to the initiation of outbreaks of gastric fever from sewage or drainage. If any doubt, it is a fortunate circumstance, to be borne during the summer, to suffice to dispel it.

(Dr. Rawson's Letter)
"Superficial, open
productive of mischief
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less likely to be out of
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in obstructive sewers
acquires a high pressure

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[illegible]

somewhat more importance in the eyes of people at home than heretofore. Several other interesting details of the working of this branch of the public service are given in Mr. Mitchell's report, and he notices in strong terms the annoyance, inconvenience, and loss to the revenue caused by the practice now in vogue of illegally sending letters by private hand instead of posting them in due form. We do not see that this proceeding is likely to be done away with so long as the law is powerless to enforce penalties; and we may add that we aim at doing the wisdom of too severely enforcing the regulations in existence; as the law will most surely be avoided so long as the present somewhat high rates of postage are kept up, and the trouble and expense of prosecution, while useless to check the practice, will only be an additional tax on the revenue of the establishment and on the time and energy of an already sufficiently hard worked branch of the public service.

While speaking on the subject of the rates now charged by the Post-office for the transmission of letters we would draw our readers' attention to the fact of the Postal income being considerably in excess of the actual expenditure of the department.

The balance is at present absorbed into the Colonial Treasury and its usual destination is to pay for roads and bridges which are annually washed away, or for the support in fat and laziness of the overfed Chinese worthies who are so conspicuously underworked in our public streets. It is a pity that it has not yet struck the minds of the authorities that the surplus might very usefully be directed to increasing the staff of the Post Office which would have the effect of accelerating the delivery of letters by the inward mails and diminish the time before departure for closing the outward mails.

For the information of such of our readers as may not be in the habit of reading the Government Gazette we reprint the Postmaster General's report hereunder.

POSTMASTER GENERAL'S ANNUAL REPORTS.

His Excellency the Acting Governor directs the publication of the subjoined Annual Report, of the Hongkong General Post Office for the Year 1865.

GENERAL POST OFFICE, HONGKONG, 22d February, 1866.

SIR.—In transmitting for the information of His Excellency the Acting Governor this my Sixth Annual Report of the Revenue and Expenditure and general working of this department being that for the year 1865, I have the honor to point out, that, although the figures show that the revenue which the Colonial Government derived from the Post Office in the year 1865 is somewhat less than it was in the year 1864, yet this apparent diminution is to a great extent accounted for by the altered system of Accounts which was brought into operation on the 1st March last, under which the profits on the Remittances made to London have not been credited to the Post Office, as was the case in former years, and as these from March to December, 1865, amounted to \$10,553.05, it is proper, for the sake of comparison, to add this sum to the Revenue actually received;—in the year just closed the profit on exchange in the Remittances of Revenue from Shanghai, was \$624.68 less than it was in 1864.

The revenue collected at the Packet Agency Shanghai on loose letters (i.e. letters carried outside the Mails), in the year 1864 amounted to \$3,498.18, whilst that received in the year 1865 was \$1,672.01; this reduction of revenue is caused by an arrangement which places them for the masters of Vessels arriving at Shanghai to deliver all their loose letters at the Local Post Office; these formerly were taken to the British Packet Agency, and it is proper to remark that the Steamers of the Peninsular and Oriental Company are not excepted to this rule, although the Messageries Impériales Packets deliver the correspondence conveyed by them, to the French Post Office at Shanghai.

To find the Colony's share of Revenue for the past year, the change in the mode of keeping the Accounts has made it necessary to deduct from the total revenue received, the amount remitted to the General Post Office in London, and for the same cause it became necessary that the debts amounting to \$6,839.98 due to that Office by the Packet Agents at the Ports in China and Japan should be taken over by the Colony, and it is therefore also necessary in computing the Colonial Revenue of 1865 with that of 1864, to add that sum to last year's revenue.

The difference between the amounts outstanding due to the Colony at the end of each of these years would be a very proper item to add to or deduct from, as the case might require, the last year's revenue; but in the year 1864 this was put down in the account of the unpaid postage stamps on hand at the Packet Agencies, and in 1865 the same due at these Agencies is properly estimated without the stamps on hand, the difference under this head cannot, with any proper degree of certainty, be ascertained.

The comparative account then stands thus:

Total amount of Revenue (Imperial and Colonial) collected during the year 1865.....	\$192,143.05
Imperial portion of the same (227,267.18.5)	120,888.03
Leaving Colonial portion.....	61,255.02

As against \$86,341.11 revenue of 1864, the difference being made up principally by Profit on remittances made to London in 1864, the corresponding item not being included in

Post Office revenue for 1865.....	10,553.05
Excess of Profits on Remittances from Shanghai in 1864 over those of 1865.....	624.68
Amount due to London Office on the 1st March, 1866, paid by the Colony under the changed plan of keeping accounts.....	6,839.98
	\$79,374.74

which shows a decrease of \$6,966.37 in the ordinary Colonial Revenue of 1865, as compared with that of 1864.

This decrease may be accounted for in numerous ways, such as the increase in the number of letters sent by the extension of the French line of Packets from Shanghai to Yokohama, the extended operations of the Shanghai Local Post Office, and the depressed state of Commerce in China and Japan.

The Imperial Postal Revenue collected in 1865 is £1,200,754 in excess of the Imperial Revenue of 1864.

I have already pointed out the Imperial portion of Revenue collected here last year has been £27,267.18.5; the Imperial share of Revenue collected in London on outward mails must of course be greater, although I have not the means of ascertaining it exactly, assuming it however to be but little in excess, it still shows that the Hongkong Post Office contributes a sum of not less than say £50,000 per annum in aid of the Postal subsidization of the other parts of the Empire.

The altered system of keeping the Accounts of the Department above referred to has been found so far to work well.

The expenditure for the year 1865, so far as the same has formed a charge upon the Colonial Government, amounts to £23,413.59 or \$90,254 in excess of that of the previous year; which is partially accounted for by an addition to the Staff of one order who was appointed on the 10th February, 1865, at \$720 per annum; this sum does not however include the cost of the new building, or the subsidy for the English Mail Contract, which disbursements are not made through the Department.

The Staff of the establishment now consists of—

- 1 Postmaster General.
- 1 Assistant do.,
- 1 Clerk,
- 1 Change Taker, and
- 5 Sorters,
- 1 Comptroller,
- 1 Head Clerk,
- 9 Ordinary Coolies, and
- 5 Boatmen,

and there are 8 Agencies under its control, viz.: at

- Canton,
- Swatow,
- Amoy,
- Fuzhou,
- Ningpo,
- Shanghai,
- Nagasaki, and
- Yedo;

In the case of Shanghai, the Colonial Government contributes a portion of the Packet Agent's Salary, the rest being paid by the Imperial Post Office, which Department also pays the salaries of each of the other Packet Agents; all other expenditure at the Ports being borne by the Colony.—The Hongkong Post Office also keeps an account with the Post Office at Macao, and the same instructions are issued to the Office of Macao as are given to the British Packet Office.

Mails are also sent to the Legation at Peking, and to the British Consulate at various other Ports, but with the exceptions indicated, there are no regularly appointed or paid Packet Agents.

The new building was opened to the Public on the 12th September last, and it has been found in all respects sufficient to meet the increased requirements of the Colony.

On the 5th September last I issued a new code of regulations for the guidance of the Officers of the Department, and these were published in pamphlet form.

I am unable to report that any improvement has taken place on the subject which you touched upon in your previous report as to the illicit conveyance of correspondence by the British Contract Packets between Hongkong and Shanghai; on the contrary, my letter of the 28th July last, No. 48, will have informed you of the continuance in the practice, and also of a defect in the Colonial Law which places the Company subsidized by the Crown without the compass of the Law which effects the Masters of Vessels not under Contract to carry Mails.

The loss to the Public and the inconvenience caused to the Department by the continuation of this practice, every endeavor has been made by the Officers of the Post Office, to counteract it, it has been found, in the present state of the Law, to be practically impossible to effect any improvement.

The compulsory use of Postage Stamps in the payment of postage both here and at the various Ports of the Colonies, and the fact that the Colonies are now in use however, although of 10 separate values, are not wholly suitable to the present rates of postage, and the introduction of four additional kinds, viz.: a 16 cent Stamp, a 32 cent Stamp, a 53 cent Stamp, and a 100 cent Stamp would be received by the Public as a convenience.

Towards the close of the past year the time for posting correspondence for the Mails by the British Contract Packets was extended from 6 P.M. on the evening prior to the Packets' departure until 9 A.M. on the morning of her departure, and a box for the receipt of Correspondence has been kept open during the night; this box however except for the use of persons who reach the Office just after the closing of the Windows at 6 P.M. has been almost in disuse.

\$163,962.80 has been received for Postage Stamps sold during the year 1865.

The Colony's Share of the Postage on Mails received from London during the year 1865 amounted to £1,241.19.0 or \$44,146 in excess of the Colonial Revenue from the same source in the previous year.

During the year 1865, 230,073 Letters and 138,011 Newspapers and Prices Current, were sent in the Mails by the British Packets to London, and 9,370 Letters and 5,136 Newspapers and Prices Current, were sent in the Mails by the French Packets to London; no account is taken of the number of letters and papers received at Hongkong in the Mails by either the English or French Packets.

901 Registered Letters were received from London, and 979 Registered Letters were dispatched to London during the year 1865.

1,233 Ship Mails (i.e. Mails carried otherwise than by the subsidized Packets) were received at the Hongkong Post Office during the year 1865, and 1,01 Ship Mails were dispatched during the same period.

During the past year 1,269 Official Letters on the business of the Office were received, and 794 letters transmitted in reply; this is exclusive of numerous Unofficial applications for information made in Memoranda and Notes.

In the month of November last an agreement was entered into between His Lordship the Postmaster

General in England and the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company under which the system of fines for overtime and premiums for time saved on the voyage which was then in operation on the line between Point de Galle and Sydney, was extended to all the services for which the Company are under contract with the Post Office. I enclose a Return showing the number of days allowed for the conveyance of the Mails from London to Hongkong via Southampton and via Marseilles, the time each voyage occupied, and the numbers of days lost or gained, from which it will be seen that during the year 1865, 3 mails arrived at Hongkong on their due date, 13 before their time, and 8 after they were due here, and, that in the voyages 24 days were gained and 36 lost.—I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient Servant.

F. W. MITCHELL,
Postmaster General.

TAXPAYERS AND TROOPS.

In accordance with our expressed intention we proceed to make a few observations, as to how this colony will be affected by the intended reduction of the Troops stationed here. The difficulty of procuring anything like reliable information regarding military details has precluded our doing so ere this; but having taken much trouble to institute enquiries, we can vouch for the accuracy of the subjoined statements.

The point to which we will primarily advert, must necessarily be that which most concerns the tax-payers of the place, namely the annual contribution of £20,000 towards the cost of the Garrison. That this demand in the first instance was most unjust, we hope to prove below; but that its continuance hereafter would be iniquitous cannot be doubted. The fact of the Legislative Council having acceded to the demand, is only to be accounted for by the pressure brought to bear by the Colonial Office on the official Members thereof; for if what is whispered be true, one of such holding a high Government position; who had the honesty (or as Downing Street would say the audacity) to vote against it, has received a caution to be more submissive in future.

With these preliminary remarks we will proceed to lay before our readers a few facts, as to how the Troops stationed here are employed, defining as far as practically the Imperial and Colonial Services. The principal duty of the Troops here, is to protect the various public buildings and stores; To do this there are near a dozen guards, only two of which, (those at Government House and the Treasury) can be said to be for the benefit of the Colony. The remainder, with one or two exceptions are for purely Imperial purposes; such as the 3 or 4 mounted over the Magazines and at the Naval yards.

The above constituting the main duties of the Troops, it will be perceived that the only advantage Hongkong derives in exchange for its £20,000 per annum is, (irrespective of the moral effect produced on the Chinese by their presence) that of two guards of a few men each. But as there are Military Establishments here in addition to soldiers, we must next take into consideration, the object for which they are maintained, which we do not hesitate to say are entirely Imperial. There is firstly the Major General and his Staff. This cannot by any process of argument be considered chargeable to our taxpayers, for he is commanding the Troops in China and Japan and were none of HIM. Forces anywhere in these regions but here, no officer of such rank would be sent to command such a small Garrison. There is next the Military Store Department which would have to be kept up to almost its present strength were the whole of the Troops withdrawn to-morrow; as it certainly has ten times as much work to do with the Navy as with the Army. And then there is the Commissariat, more Imperial than any of the others for it is, so to speak, the Agent of the British Treasury, through whom all its monetary transactions in China and Japan are conducted, and by whom all disbursements on account of it, for Naval, Diplomatic and Consular Services are made.

We submit to our readers that we have proved most conclusively that the demand made by the Colonial Office for £20,000 a year was in the first instance most disproportionate, and therefore exorbitant, unjust, and in the manner of its enforcement arbitrary.

If such was the case when there were two Regiments here, it will become absolute dishonesty, if the claim be persevered in after the reduction of the Garrison.

There is one other point of very great moment to the Colony, which seems to have escaped the observation of everybody; and that is how will the prospects of the Mint be affected by the withdrawal of the Troops; that its success depends entirely on its security nobody will question, and that its situation affords none, is proved by the piracy which recently took place under its very walls.—Unless it is properly protected, nobody will entrust dollars or specie to its care, and to assure that object, it was originally intended to have had a Captain's guard of some 50 men over it.

This arrangement cannot under present circumstances be carried out, and we hear that the building of the Guard House has been suspended.—We should much like to know what is proposed to be done to meet the difficulty. The promised time for commencing operations is very near, and delay means loss of revenue. We do not believe that even a Hongkong Government would propose to entrust the safety of the contents of a Mint to Hindoos and Lascars, and where Europeans are to be procured we cannot opine. So that we may as well prepare ourselves for the adjournment *sine die* of the opening of this much vaunted establishment. In conclusion we express a hope, that as the Legislative Council will meet on Tuesday, some independent member will procure for the community more exact intelligence on the various points mooted in this article, which so deeply interest every resident here, by requesting his Excellency the Acting Governor in the first place to lay on the table a copy of the despatch received some months ago, stating that one Regiment was to be withdrawn, and then asking for information on the following subjects viz. as to whether any intimation had been received of the intention of the Colonial Office to abandon or lessen its demand for a yearly contribution towards military expenses, whether any protest had been made against the reduction of the Garrison—and lastly what steps it was proposed to take to protect the Mint.

HONGKONG.

THERE are two questions which require the early attention of the Public of Hongkong; first, are we Europeans living among the Chinese, or are the Chinese supposed to be living among us. The second question indirectly arises out of the first, viz.: have we a Surveyor General for the Town of Victoria in name, for we certainly do not possess one in deed?

To commence with our first query. It really is high time that, something definite should be settled before the proportions of the city of Victoria become so unmanageably large, and the Chinese element preponderates to such an extent, that we shall not only find ourselves completely outnumbered, but out voted by Chinese influence and chicanery in every useful measure brought forward for the progress of this important British Colony.

Most of our readers will probably smile at the bare idea of such a question being put.—“Of course this is not only a strictly European Town, but it is intended to be a model in every way for future Chinese Rulers and Architects to build their cities by, instead of the hitherto cramped up and gingerbread streets or alleys of their country!” Is it so? Let us take our leading thoroughfare Queen's Road for a sample; it has doubtless been originally fairly designed and laid down, it is broad and straight enough for all purposes, but what a heterogeneous mass of buildings we see on both sides of this Oxford Street of the East—as it has been facetiously called; no wonder a stranger is very much puzzled when he gets there and when he is fondly beginning to imagine himself once more in a civilized European City, and is quite struck with the elegance and solidity of the almost palatial residences of our merchant firms, to find that a few

steps one way or the other, bring him up suddenly among the slums and stench of an unmitigable Chinese town flimsily built and friable as touchpaper!

Is there then no help for this? Are we powerless in our own Colony and on our own land to lay down the law for the Chinese, that if it suits them so well to leave their own homes to come and live among us, they must adopt our own style of buildings, and conform in every way to European ideas of cleanliness. Why permit their jeopardizing daily both public and private property around them with the flimsy and inflammable material their houses are run up with, and driving away respectable householders with the unsavouriness and state of almost universal squalor they live in, from the highest to the lowest? However much the Colonial policy of France and Holland may be at fault, there is one lesson we may always learn from them with advantage, and that is the almost arbitrary way in which they insist upon all their foreign towns being built in conformity with the characteristic ideas of the mother country. “Le droit du plus fort” is a far more suitable motto to go upon in this place, than our “live and let live.” The Chinese who own buildings in the Queen's Road are mostly men of wealth who can easily afford to build better habitations and would do so immediately they were driven to it; nor would there be any great hardship in this rule, for it must eventually come to that ere long.

It must be said that the Praya is certainly a very great improvement to the rest of the Town of Victoria; indeed it would be almost perfect were it not for the vexatious obduracy of the Naval Authorities in refusing to give up the sea frontage it claims to so pertinaciously about the Dock yard; however we understand that there is a prospect of this much vexed question being shortly settled by the present Admiral, as he is one of liberal views and not prejudiced by too long a residence in tropical climates. We shall then have an unbroken range of quays and carriage drives all the way to East Point which no doubt will be carried on ere long past the Mint.

The second question about the existence of a Surveyor General appears to us rather difficult to answer; if there is one, why in the name of Heaven doesn't he pay closer attention to the duties that necessarily devolve upon him. There is one very important item which he is supposed to have entirely under his immediate control, and that is the thorough drainage and cleanliness of the town and its thoroughfares; such a thing as superficial drainage should be unknown and yet what is our experience, if we stroll past the Murray Barracks, Spring gardens, and so on to the foot of Morrison Hill?

On each side of the road there is a continued dark looking pestiferous stream dozing out from the Chinese Houses which in itself is sufficient to breed fevers of the most malignant description; in the mornings especially the stench is so intolerable that early risers who desire to “eat” a few mouthfuls of fresh air on the Race course or elsewhere, are obliged to canter or drive past at the top of their speed, holding their noses for fear of being sickened, portable tubs waiting equally obnoxious exhalations attack our olfactory nerves on all sides, and yet there is no necessity whatsoever for all this, except that it always has been a Chinese custom from time immemorial.

There can be no excuse whatever urged against proper drains being laid down any where in the town; on account of its being entirely built on the slope of a hill they would always have sufficient fall into the sea to prevent their being choked up at any time.

Let us trust in conclusion that the infusion of new blood and rulers into the Colony will tend somewhat by their exertions and promptitude to dissipate the hitherto mistaken notions people have been forming at home about the confirmed insalubrity of the Hongkong climate.